

LEVEL ONE
News Notes

from the COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
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addressed to those who are concerned with Christianity and Higher Education

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HOLBROOK
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PACIFIC SCHOOL
LIBRARY

The Mission of the Christian College in the Modern World is the theme of the Third Convocation of Christian Colleges to be held at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, June 17 - 22, 1962.

THIRD
CONVOCA-
TION
OF
CHRISTIAN
COLLEGES

Major discussion sections will deal with:

- A. Its Relationship to Church and to State
- B. Its Involvement in Freedom
- C. Its Claims to be an Academic and Christian Community

Colleges are urged to record this date and start early planning for a substantial delegation. It is recommended that as far as possible each college should plan to send:

- The President or other Administrative Officer
- Three Faculty selected from the three disciplinary areas
- A Student
- The Chaplain

One of the most relaxed and unified assemblies that we have had seems to be the general feeling about the NSCF Assembly held at Lake Geneva a few weeks ago. A number of those present commented on the value of the stimulating discussion, their appreciation of a schedule that made possible informal conversation, and even some time for exercise and recreation, and a setting that was conducive to a spirit of unity and common purpose. This is not say there was not intense discussion and difference of point of view; it is referring to the spirit in which differences were faced.

New officers of the Federation:

Charles Davis - Auburn University, President
Bruce Johnson - Stanford University, Vice President
Rebecca Owen - Union Theological Seminary, Secretary
Claude Singleton - Methodist Church, Treasurer
Hartland H. Helmich - United Church of Christ, Chairman of the Central Committee

Important actions by the YMCA and YWCA Student Movements were presented. The YMCA requested NSCF to amend its Constitution "so as to specify a category of membership for 'related agencies' which are not officially constituted by or related to one or more communions." The National Student Council desires to be a "related Agency" of NSCF, and through it, to be related to the WSCF.

YMCA
SEEKS
CHANGE

The YWCA requested "That the NSCF consider a constitutional change to specify a membership status for Student Christian Movements which are not constituted by or related to one or more communions as distinct from those which are so constituted. contingent upon the development of such a membership category, the National Student YWCA desires to continue participation in the life and work of NSCF as a member student Christian movement."

OF
RELATION

In response to these request, the NSCF Assembly took the following action: "That a **FURTHER** consultation be called, hopefully before the end of 1961, to consider these requests **DISCUSSION** for constitutional change and that each member movement be invited to be represented, along with representatives of the NSCF Executive Committee, at this consultation." This consultation will be held November 19th and 20th at Tuxedo Park, New York.

Another important action was the bringing into being of the Joint Commission on Ecumenical Studies and Strategy. The first meeting of the Commission will be held October 6th and 7th, 1961. The convenor will be the Rev. Scott Jones. The work of this first meeting will be the development of the Life and Mission theme for the 1962, 1963 academic year which has been stated as "Word, World, and Sacrament."

Traveling on behalf of the "Life and Mission of the Church in the United States" for the Commission on World Mission of the NSCF this coming year will be the Rev. Ichiro Matsuda from Japan. Mr. Matsuda is a missionary to the United States from Japan and has spent the past two years doing pastoral evangelistic and community center work in the Mountaineer Mining Mission under the Board of National Missions of the United Presbyterian Church. He will be traveling to college campuses under the auspices of the NSCF. **MISSIONARY TO U. S.**

The Annual Meeting of the Council of Protestant Colleges and Universities will be held January 9th, 1962 at Cleveland, Ohio, immediately preceding the meeting of the Association of American Colleges. The theme of the opening luncheon meeting will be **THE PROTESTANT COLLEGE AND ITS EDUCATION IN WORLD AFFAIRS**. The speaker will be Dr. Frank Graham. The afternoon session will deal with the work of the Convocation Study Commissions and a business session. Reservation cards for the luncheon will soon be forth-coming from the CPCU office. **CPCU MEETING**

The Commission is happy to welcome to its staff two new members: William Rogers, Executive Director of the Faculty Christian Fellowship and Finley Eversole, Secretary for the Interseminary Movement. Bill Rogers is well known to most of us having worked for the past two or three years with the University Christian Mission. Finley has been on the staff of the Methodist Board of Higher Education working with motive. His recent article on vocation in the Christian Century has been well received. **WELCOME ROGERS AND EVERSOLE**

There isn't time or space to refer to all the interesting literature that has come to our attention recently but some **items** seem to be particularly important to mention. Peter L. Berger's book The Noise of Solemn Assemblies, written at the request of NSCF, is particularly timely and helpful. It is an attempt to be critically constructive in thinking about the role and life of the church in contemporary society. It faces quite realistically the seeming irrelevance of the church to much of our culture. It admits quite frankly the serious problems involved when an institution seeks to be prophetic but comes out with a positive affirmation of the life and work of the church saying that "involvement with organized religion is a Christian vocation." Berger calls Christians to engagement with society through 1) Christian service 2) Christian social action 3) Christian presence 4) Christian dialogue. We recommend reading the book to see spelled out the meaning of these terms. (Available from NSCF, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York.) **FAITH AND STRUCTURE**

- Emerson W. Shideler has written an interesting article on "A Protestant Doctrine of Education" in the September 27th issue of the Christian Century.

- Lenora G. Lewis says that increasing doubt is being expressed among colleges and universities whether degrees should be granted solely because of a complete number of classroom hours and the passing of a course examination. She maintains that we need more flexibility in the credit system, "The Credit System in Colleges and Universities." This is a report from the U. S. Office of Education. **CREDITS VERSUS EDUCATION**

- The October issue of Harper's has a special supplement on the College Scene - "A 64-page supplement on the new generation of undergraduate students and their teachers...what kind of education they really get...their reviving interest in politics...if the rest of it is up to the quality of Michael Novacs', "God in the Colleges" it is very worthwhile. Novacs points out that "although colleges pride themselves on the awakening of young minds, on the asking of the big questions of life...it is soon clear to college students that the big questions don't count - either in academic standing or in later life or in research grants." He attributes this in large part to the dominance of the cult of objectivity, of the dominance of a scientific perspective that rules out any real involvement of the person with what he is studying or teaching. The only answer he feels is that teachers must "lead the student to the profound human experiences lying below the surfaces of the academic curriculum....Man's experience of his fragility, of his transitoriness, of his tininess;...his vast ability to be proud and to fail, to be isolated and to love - to be and yet not to be - master of his own destiny." Such experiences would be "Pre-religious" but they would enable the university people to be far more closely engaged with the world outside. "God will come back to the colleges, when man comes back."
- GOD
IN
THE
COLLEGES

LIVING
GOD
DEAD
MAN
- We are indebted to Helen F. Spaulding again for her "Abstracts of Doctoral Dissertations in Religious Education, 1960-61" that appears in the September-October issue, 1961, of Religious Education.
- DOCTORAL
DIS-
SERTATIONS
- Of particular interest to Presbyterians, though others will wish to read it is the Dissertation on "The Churches Ministry to College Students in the United Presbyterian Churches of Southern California" by Robert J. Kelly, a Ph.D.dissertation for the University of Southern California. Kelly concludes that while the majority of students tested were commuters who show a close attachment to the local church they are detached from an active campus life in terms of extra-curricular activity. The program of Christian Education now being carried on is judged to be inadequate because it influences only a fraction of United Presbyterian students, the campus program does not effectively supplement the church program, and the church group lacks unity, purpose, theological foundation, and spiritual depth.
- STUDY
OF
CAMPUS
MINISTRY
- A contribution to the discussion of the relation of the theological seminary to the church is made by Dr. Ernest C. Colwell, President of the Southern California School of Theology at Claremont. We call attention to it because what Dr. Colwell has to say about the theological seminary to the church seems to us to also have a relevance to the relation of a Christian college and the church. (The article appears in the School of Theology's publication Perspective for July, 1961.)
- CHURCH
AND
SEMINARY
- Some important conferences are coming up in the next few months that will be of interest to many of us.
- The Second National Conference on the Churches and Social Welfare will be held in Cleveland, October 23-27, 1961. The program announcement looks as though it will be a stimulating affair. (Worth reading - "A Way Out of the Welfare Mess" - October Harper's.)
- SOCIAL
WELFARE
- The Fourth National Study Conference on the Church and Economic Life will be held November 8-11, 1961, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The conference is "The Ethical Implication of Rapid Economic Change in the USA." The conference expects to deal with the impact of technology and economic change on the family and patterns of community behavior, on the role and responsibility of the consumer and how he can exercise it, the impact of technology on work and climate of labor management relations, concentrations and aggregations of economic power, and others. Preparatory commissions are working on the preparation of conference material in each one of these areas. (For more information write Dr. Cameron P. Hall, NCC, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York.)
- ETHICS
AND
SOCIAL
CHANGE

FACULTY
SALARIES

Teaching Salaries Then and Now - A Second Look by Sidney G. Pitman reproduces and brings up-to-date the information contained in the book by Beardsly Rumhl and Pitman that came out a few years ago. The findings can best be summarized by this quote: "A few years ago, Beardsly Rumhl needled the American public with the fact that a teacher was paid on the average less than a skilled mechanic, and that a university professor received less than a locomotive engineer. By the end of 1959 the situation hadn't changed much, but some activity was beginning to be noticed on the education front - at least at the top level." The picture seems to be that there is something of a general increase but that the high salary hasn't filtered down yet to many of the teachers in the class room. Pitman suggests that substantial progress will only be made as "something is done to increase the teacher's productivity." Just what he means by increased productivity is a question, but the study is an interesting survey of the situation. (Available from the Fund for the Advancement of Education, 477 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York.)

Speaking of faculty salaries here are some recent figures from the U. S. Office of Education:

- average salaries in 4-year undergraduate colleges rose about 6.5% in the past year from \$6,880 in 59-60 to \$7,330 for 60-61
 - in public 4-year institutions salaries rose 7.1% to an average of \$7,570
 - in private 4-year institutions salaries rose 5.5% to an average of \$6,960
 - junior colleges - up 8.3%
- Public average - \$7,000
Private average - \$4,910

FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM

We call attention again to the Theological Fellowship Program of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. It enables a man to spend a "trial year" in a seminary as he gives serious thought to the ministry as a lifetime vocation. (For information write: Theological Fellowship Program, 140 Nassau Street, Princeton, New Jersey.)

CORRECTION

Our regrets to Dr. Miller Upton for failing to note in the last "News Notes" that his letter referring to the break-down of the institutional origins of the Teachers for East Africa program was quoting a memorandum from Teachers College, Columbia.

Enclosed is a printed list of publications available from the Commission on Higher Education office (475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York). We hope you will find this list helpful. Additional copies are available on request.

THANKS!

Grateful thanks to the many who responded to our summer letter with friendly comments, dollar bills and checks that went even beyond the second mile. It encourages us to continue the effort. We would emphasize again that the letter was an inquiry and an invitation, not a bill. We are happy to send "News Notes" to all who wish to read it and appreciate the assistance of those who help make its circulation possible.

Hubert C. Noble
General Director